

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

AM
4. (Amended) The venting plug as claimed in claim 3 wherein the coupling portion comprises a center cylindrical portion, and at least two flanges extending radially from the cylindrical portion.

R2
12/13. (Amended) A method of producing a venting plug for use with a wet, lead-acid electric storage battery comprising a container, a cover, the container and cover defining one or more cell cavities, the cover defining cylindrically shaped process holes associated with each cell cavity, said venting being adapted for insertion into said process holes to provide gaseous communication between said cell cavities and the atmosphere, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold for molding a substantially cylindrical venting plug body, said mold having an upper half and a lower half, said lower half comprising a solid plate for forming at least one sealing surface of the plug body without a parting line and at least one slideable component for forming at least one coupling flange along a peripheral surface of the venting plug body,

molding a venting plate body having at least one sealing surface and a coupling flange,

opening the mold, and

ejecting the venting plug body from the mold, the venting plug body having a sealing surface that displays no mold parting line.

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the opening the mold step includes the step of molding a venting plug body having a coupling flange in the form of a thread extending about the body.

16. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the opening the mold step comprises the steps of sliding the at least one slideable component out of engagement with the molded body, and separating the upper and lower halves of the mold, and said step of molding a first material comprises the step of injection molding a polypropylene material.

18. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the step of ejecting comprises the step of advancing an ejector pin to eject the molded body from the lower half solid plate.

19. (Amended) A mold for molding the body of a venting plug for use with a wet, lead-acid electric storage battery comprising a container, a cover, the container and cover defining at least one cell cavity, the cover defining a cylindrically shaped process hole associated said cell cavity, said venting plug having a body having at least one sealing surface adapted to receive a seal and to be inserted into said process hole to provide gaseous communication between said cell cavity and the atmosphere, said body having at least one flange for coupling the venting plug to the cover, said mold comprising:

an upper half, and

a lower half,

said lower half comprising a solid plate for forming said sealing surface on said venting plug body whereby said solid plate does not result in a mold parting line in said sealing surface, at least one slideable component adapted to form said flange, said slideable component being slideably disposed such that the upper half and the solid plate are separable along a first axis, and

94
said slideable component is moveable relative to the solid plate along a second axis disposed at an angle to the first axis whereby a parting line may be formed adjacent to the flange.

19 18
20. (Amended) The mold as claimed in claim 19 comprising two slideable components for forming the coupling flange, said slideable components being moveable relative to the solid plate.

20

X